

Message Text

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71

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

STR-04 TAR-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AS-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/TA:RAMEYER:STMCP

APPROVED BY EB/OT/TA:WGBARRACLOUGH

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EUR/RPE:JMCCARTHY

COMMERCE:ADAUMAN/RWATKINS

TREASURY:MCHAVES

STR:ELAPP

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R 311546Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE RE JAPAN-BENELUX ELECTRONIC
PRODUCTS TALKS

REF: THE HAGUE 6293

1. ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING SHOULD
THE SUBJECT OF THE ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS TALKS BETWEEN
JAPAN AND BENELUX BE RAISED.

2. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE OVER
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JAPANESE EXPORTS OF ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS TO THE BENELUX

COUNTRIES, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO IMPOSITION OF IMPORT CONTROLS BY BENELUX AND SUBSEQUENT JAPANESE RETALIATION. SUCH ACTIONS BY THE BENELUX AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY THE U.K., COULD UNDERMINE THE DETERMINATION OF THE MAJOR TRADING COUNTRIES TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN ONE RECALLS THAT NEITHER JAPAN NOR BENELUX ARE IN THE SAME ECONOMIC STRAITS AS IS THE UK. THE PRECEDENT THEY WOULD SET WOULD THEREFORE BE FAR MORE DAMAGING.

3. WE HOPE THAT BENELUX AND JAPAN MAY YET FIND A WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHOUT RESORT TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. EVEN IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED, BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD TEND TO WEAKEN THE RESOLVE OF OTHERS TO HOLD FIRM AGAINST PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AGREEMENTS, EXPORT CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE305334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAMEYER:STMCP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0945
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975123/aaaaacpw.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 THE HAGUE 6293
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE RE JAPAN-BENELUX ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS TALKS
TAGS: ETRD, JA, NL
To: BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006